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Her Honour Judge Lisa Hannan
Chief Magistrate
Magistrates' Court of Victoria
233 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

GPO Box 882
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



9 December 2019

Ms Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavangh Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

via email – cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson,

**RE: INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF TRE LEIGH LAWSON
COURT REF: COR 2017 005779**

I acknowledge receipt of the Coronial Findings dated 7 October 2019 and note the recommendation made.

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria endorses the recommendation and agrees with paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Finding. The Court does not have the power to implement the recommendation.

Although the Mental Health Advice and Referral Service (MAHRS) is a program situated in Magistrates' Courts to assist persons appearing before the Court, it is not a program over which the Court has carriage or oversight. The program is funded and overseen by the DHHS. In 2017/2018 there was a major uplift of MHARS through the Forensic Mental Health budget bid. The Magistrates' Court was consulted with respect to locations and a determination was made that the program be situated at each headquarters court. Additional funds were made available by government to resource the expansion of the MAHS program to the Bail and Remand Court (BaRC).

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria will ensure that the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems Planning and Strategic Coordination Board which made the recommendation to government to implement the MAHRS program is made aware of the Finding and Recommendation, and will request that the matter be included as an Agenda item at its next meeting.

Through this avenue, the Court will make representations to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the (MAHRS) program to Mildura (with outreach to Swan Hill) as a priority.

Yours sincerely,



Judge Lisa Hannan
Chief Magistrate